

the television program on that channel is halted at step 510. At step 512, a data service is assigned to the non-viewed channel.”

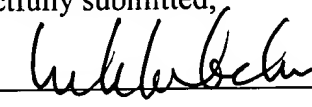
Support for the amendment of claim 34 is found on page 5, line 29 to page 6, line 5. This section states “Receiver 300 comprises network interface 304, decoder 306, processing unit 308, control interface 310, signal combiner 312, and memory unit 314. Decoder 306 may provide conversion of MPEG data into displayable formats. Control interface 310 may receive signals from a remote control or other input device. Signal combiner 312 is operable to combine video information with other information such as on-screen menus or program guides, for example. Memory unit 314 may contain instructions for processing unit 308 and may contain menu information, channel look-up tables, and other information.”

The above amendments further clarify the novelty of the present invention. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter this amendment prior to examination.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Mark-up Version of Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A method of managing television network bandwidth comprising:
broadcasting a plurality of programs on a plurality of channels to a plurality of receivers across said network;
identifying each channel of said plurality of channels [that is tuned by] to which at least one receiver of said plurality of receivers connected to said network is tuned;
determining if at least one channel of said plurality of channels is not tuned by any one of said plurality of receivers; and
if at least one channel of said plurality of channels is not tuned by any one of said plurality of receivers, halting transmission of a program on said at least one channel and broadcasting information other than a program on said at least one channel.

5. (Amended) A method for managing network bandwidth comprising:
broadcasting a plurality of programs on a plurality of channels to a plurality of receivers across said network;
defining a group of channels comprising a subset of said plurality of channels;
identifying each channel of said group of channels [that is tuned by] to which at least one receiver of said plurality of receivers connected to said network is tuned;
determining if at least one channel of said group of channels is not tuned by any one of said plurality of receivers; and
halting transmission of a program on said at least one channel and broadcasting information other than a program on said at least one channel if at least one channel of said group of channels is not tuned by any one of said plurality of receivers.
[broadcasting information other than a program on said one channel.]

34. (Amended) A programmable television receiving unit coupled to network comprising:

a processing unit disposed in said receiving unit;

a network interface;

a memory unit;

a signal combiner operable to combine video information with other information;

a remote user input device; and

a program operable to receive a signal from said user input device and to transmit an upstream message if said signal enables said receiving unit to transition from a quiescent state to an operational state.